IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Kenneth McKethan	)	Confirmation No.: 2261
	)	
Application No. 10/708,262	)	Group Art Unit: 2192
	)	
Filed: February 20, 2004	)	Examiner: Michael J. Yigdall
	)	
Title: Method and System to Gauge	)	
And Control Project Churn	)	

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

No Amendments to the Specification.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method to gauge and control churn of a project, comprising:

determining an estimated project churn, wherein project churn includes any identifiable and unplanned changes to a scope of the project;

identifying at least one task of the project requiring rework or modification;

collecting heuristic information on each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes for determining the estimated project churn, wherein collecting heuristic information comprises at least one of:

collecting a time to complete a same or a similar task in another project;

sampling a plurality of times to complete the same or similar task in a plurality of other projects; and

surveying a plurality of experienced project managers to provide an estimated time requirement to complete the task;

entering at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for reworking or modifying each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes; and

allocating resources in response to the estimated project churn based on the collected heuristic information and the at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for each task of the project.

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2. Canceled

3. Canceled

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising performing a weighted average duration analysis for each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising determining an average time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein determining the average time requirement comprises averaging at least an optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 6, further comprising entering a weight factor for each optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 7, further comprising performing a weighted average duration analysis on the average time requirement for each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 8, further comprising determining an impact to the project in response to the weighted average duration analysis.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising tracking reworked tasks and time duration to complete each reworked task during the course of the project.

11. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method to gauge and control churn of a project, comprising:

entering a project-specific task list;

<u>identifying at least one task requiring rework or modification;</u>

entering at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes;

collecting heuristic information on each task of the project to determine the optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes, wherein collecting heuristic information comprises at least one of:

collecting a time to complete a same or a similar task in another project;

sampling a plurality of times to complete the same or similar task in a plurality of other projects;

surveying a plurality of experienced project managers to provide an estimated time requirement to complete the task;

entering a weighting factor for each of the optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to perform a weighted average duration analysis;

determining an average time requirement to rework or modify each task requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes;

performing the weighted average duration analysis on any tasks requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes;

determining an impact to the project in response to the weighted average duration analysis; and

presenting the impact to a user.

12. Canceled

13. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 11, wherein performing the weighted average duration analysis comprises performing a program evaluation and review technique (PERT).

14. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 11, wherein determining the impact to the project comprises totaling times for all affected tasks from the weighted average duration analysis.

15. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 11, further comprising allocating resources in response to the impact to the project.

16. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 11, further comprising tracking reworked tasks and time duration to complete each reworked task during the course of the project.

17. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 11, further comprising presenting the impact to the project to provide an early warning.

18. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 11, wherein entering the project-specific tasks comprises generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter the tasks.

19. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 11, wherein entering the at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements comprises generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter the time requirements.

20. Canceled

21. (Currently Amended) A system to gauge and control churn of a project, comprising:

an input device to enter heuristic information on each task of a project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes, <u>wherein the project has at least one task requiring rework or modification, and</u> wherein the heuristic information comprises:

time to complete a same or a similar task in another project;

a sampling of a plurality of times to complete the same or similar task in a plurality of other projects; and

a survey a plurality of experienced project managers to provide an estimated time requirement to complete the task; and

a user interface generator to generate a graphical user interface displayable to a user to enter at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for reworking or modifying each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes;

a processor;

an analysis program operable on the processor to determine an impact to the project in response to any potential project changes using the heuristic information, wherein the analysis program is adapted to utilize the at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for each task of the project and a weighting factor for each of the at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to determine the impact to the project; and

an output device to present the impact to a user.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising a display to present graphical user interfaces for entering the heuristic information and other information.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising a user interface generator to generate a graphical user interface displayable to a user on the display to enter a project-specific task list.

24. Canceled

25. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 21, wherein the user interface generator is adapted to generate a graphical user interface to enter the weighting factor for each of the at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to perform a weighted average duration analysis.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the analysis program comprises a weighted average duration analysis program.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the analysis program comprises a programmed evaluation and review technique (PERT).

28. Canceled.

29. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising means to track reworked tasks and time duration to complete each reworked task during the course of the project.

30. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising means to allocate resources in response to the impact to the project.

31.-35. Canceled

36. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer-executable instructions for performing a method, wherein the computer-readable storage medium is one of an electronic, optical, electromagnetic, infrared or semiconductor system, the method comprising:

       determining an estimated project churn, wherein project churn includes any identifiable and unplanned changes to a scope of the project;

       identifying at least one task requiring rework or modification;

collecting heuristic information on each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes for determining the estimated project churn, wherein collecting heuristic information comprises at least one of:

collecting a time to complete a same or a similar task in another project;

sampling a plurality of times to complete the same or similar task in a plurality of other projects; and

surveying a plurality of experienced project managers to provide an estimated time requirement to complete the task;

entering at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for reworking or modifying each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes; and

allocating resources in response to the estimated project churn based on the collected heuristic information and the at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements for each task of the project.

37. Canceled

38. Canceled

39. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising performing a weighted average duration analysis for each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising determining an average time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, wherein determining the average time requirement comprises averaging at least an optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 41, further comprising entering a weight factor for each optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 42, further comprising performing a weighted average duration analysis on the average time requirement for each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter a project-specific task list.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter at least optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirements to rework or modify each task of the project requiring rework or modification in response to any potential project changes.

46. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium encoded with computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 45, further comprising generating a graphical user interface for a user to enter a weight factor for each optimistic, pessimistic and expected time requirement.

<div align="center">Remarks</div>

The present application contains claims 1, 4-10, 11, 13-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-30, 36, 39-46. Claims 1, 4-10, 11, 13-19, 21, 36 and 39-46 are amended herein and are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment, a telephone interview is requested.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted,

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